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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, the notice for the question was received on the 16th November and we took action on the 17th. We have to make a proper enquiry as in these days even ordinary deaths are reported as starvation deaths."

Panchayat Board for Korom amsam, Payyanur, North Malabar.

* 421 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government received any memorandum signed by 830 villagers of Korom amsam, Payyanur, North Malabar, requesting the Government for a separate panchayat board in Korom amsam ; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Yes. The Government considered that the exclusion of the Korom revenue village from the present Payyanur Panchayat (Malabar) and the formation of a separate panchayat for the excluded area would bring into existence an uneconomic unit and that the Korom village would continue to get the benefit of larger amenities as hitherto by remaining within the panchayat than by getting out of it. The request of the villagers for the formation of a separate panchayat for the Korom village was therefore negatived."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that hitherto the people of Korom Amsam did not get any benefit from the Payyanur Panchayat Board and that they repeatedly requested the redressal of their grievances? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, the President of the Payyanur Panchayat Board comes from Korom Amsam and I think some wooden bridges and a road are being laid."

Fruit canning factory, Kodur.

* 422 *Q.*—SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Fruit Canning Factory at Kodur was sanctioned ;

(*b*) the causes for its not working till now ;

(*c*) when the canning work will start on a commercial scale ;

(*d*) the causes for not constructing the building and not equipping so far the attached Fruit Products Research Laboratory ; and

(*e*) how long it will take to construct the building and to equip the Laboratory fully?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) The Fruit Canning Factory at Kodur was sanctioned in September 1942.

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" (*b*) The complete machinery for the factory has not become available till now. A part of the citrus juice unit is still expected.

" (*c*) Definite information on this point cannot be given because—

(1) electric power is not yet available in the locality and the purchase of a generator is still under consideration; and

(2) the factory is intended to be worked only on a semi-commercial scale or pilot plant scale.

" (*d*) The Government do not propose to put up any building for the factory as there are already two M.B. sheds for the purpose. The Research Laboratory is an independent unit intended to deal not only with the fruits grown in and around Kodur but also with fruits and vegetables grown all over the Madras State. Though research work in the nature of exploratory trials on a cottage industry basis has been in progress since 1942 or even earlier, systematic research work has not been undertaken for want of facilities such as gas, electricity, running water, etc. The question of the future of the research laboratory is under consideration.

" (*e*) As already stated in the answer to clause (d), the Government do not propose to erect a building for the canning factory. The question of shifting the research part of the Bio-Chemist's section to Madras is separately under the consideration of the Government. Till this question is decided, the consideration of the question of constructing a building for the Research Laboratory has to be deferred."

SRI P. NARASIMHA REDDI :—" **Private fruit canning factory** లు విజయవాడలోను, యింకను ఎన్నోచోట్లను జయప్రదంగా నడుస్తూంటే, కోడూరులో ఉన్న గవర్నమెంటు **fruit canning factory** ఎందుకు సరిగా నడపడములేదు? ఈ **factory** లు సరిగా నడపబడకపోవడమా? లేక నడపడానికి యిష్టము లేక పోవడమా, మంత్రిగారు తెలియజేస్తారా."

9-20 a.m. THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" I may submit, Sir, that Government are serious about this matter and quite earnest. The machinery that is required has not as yet come and the Director of Agriculture has stated that after the receipt of the machinery, if a generator is put up, we may be able to start working the factory within about six months."

Common staff for groups of panchayats.

* 423 *Q*.—SRI B. SANKARAYYA (on behalf of Sri M. D. Thiagaraja Pillai) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to appoint common staff for clerical duties and collection work for convenient groups of panchayats, and if so, what action has been taken in that direction?